

## Ryan Gander: the Happy Prince

**Doris C. Freedman Plaza  
Central Park, New York**

15 September-10 April 2011  
[www.publicartfund.org](http://www.publicartfund.org)

The London-based artist Ryan Gander has been commissioned by the Public Art Fund to create a sculpture for New York's Central Park. *The Happy Prince* (detail, right) is the artist's first piece of public art. Named after and inspired by Oscar Wilde's morality tale, it promises to make a poignant addition to the famous open space. In the story, a swallow sacrifices itself to help an enchanted prince, encased in a gilded and bejewelled statue, to strip it to help the poor. The artist has focused on the moment when the statue is torn down—deprived of its costly decoration, it is no longer deemed a work of art.

Nicholas Baume, the director of the Public Art Fund, which curates the temporary installations, chose Gander because of



Courtesy Public Art Fund. Photo Richard Griggs

the artist's love of literature and language. "He's an inventor of stories as well as an adaptor of existing texts," says Baume. In a city full of philanthropists—and with its share of poverty, the work may well strike a chord. Coinciding with the unveiling of *The Happy Prince*, the nearby Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum presents works by Gander in the museum's "Intervals" series (1 October-9 January 2011). Gander is also giving the next talk in his "Loose Associations Lectures", held at the New School's John Tishman Auditorium on 16 September.

**Megan Empey**